Amendment to the Specification

Please add the following paragraphs in between paragraphs 0012 and 0013.

> Fig. 1A is a schematic that presents an axial view of a piston ring according to an embodiment of the present invention.
>
> Fig. 1B is a schematic depicting the cross section 1B-1B of Fig. 1A.
>
> Fig. 2A is a schematic that presents an axial view of a piston pin according to an embodiment of the present invention.
>
> Fig. 2B is a schematic depicting the cross section 2B-2B of Fig. 2A.

Please amend paragraph 0015 as follows:

> [0015] The sliding member is designed specifically for use in an automotive engine, and can be in the form of a piston ring**, as is represented by way of example only in Figs. 1A and 1B**, a piston pin, **as is represented by way of example only in Figs. 2A and 2B, a piston skirt**, a cam lobe, a cam journal, a plain bearing, a rotary vane or a timing chain, or varying combinations thereof. Herein, the piston ring is a ring fit onto a piston to slide against a cylinder. The piston pin is a pin that connects a piston to a connecting rod and slides against the piston, bushing or the connecting rod. The piston skirt is the skirt part of a piston that slides against a cylinder. Each of the cam lobe and the cam journal is used for a camshaft to slide against a valve lifter or a shim so as to drive intake and exhaust valves. The rotary vane is rotatably mounted in the housing (that defines a pump chamber) of an oil pump (such as a base pump) of an automatic transmission so as to slide against the housing, or is rotatably mounted in the cylindrical housing of a hydraulic circuit of a valve train (that variably controls the valve lift characteristics of an intake or exhaust valve) so as to slide against the housing. The timing

chain is a continuous roller chain that slides against a sprocket or chain guide so as to drive a camshaft from a crankshaft.

Please amend paragraph 0016 as follows:

[0016] The sliding portion of the sliding member has a base and a hard carbon film formed on the base to coat the sliding portion. **By way of example only, the base of the piston ring according to an exemplary embodiment is represented by element 10 in Figs. 1A and 1B, while the base of the piston pin according to an exemplary embodiment is represented by element 30 in Figs. 2A and 2B. Further by way of example only, the hard carbon film of the piston ring according to an exemplary embodiment is represented by element 20 in Figs. 1A and 1B, while the hard carbon film of the piston pin according to an exemplary embodiment is represented by element 40 in Figs. 2A and 2B.**